

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Imprinted sheet material for container coverings, ~~characterized in that onto~~ wherein the outside of a carrier sheet a thermoplastic adhesion promoter is applied, subsequently the appropriate imprint is applied, whereupon the imprint in those regions, in which heat protection is required, a lacquer of similar composition is applied by means of a register-controlled method, a portion of the curing agent comprised in the lacquer or applied separately, migrates into the printing ink or the adhesion promoter, respectively, leading to cross-linking and/or on the side facing the fill good an adhesion promoter is applied and thereon an imprint, whereupon onto the printing ink an adhesion promoter is applied and in the above defined regions a heat-seal lacquer.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each imprint is applied utilizing the digital print process.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the imprint is applied utilizing the Indigo process.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein onto the sheet material concurrent with the imprint are printed registration and control lines.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein before the adhesion promoter is applied, registration and control lines are printed onto the material.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the adhesion promoter is applied with register and gage-pin precision in those regions, onto which subsequently the imprint is applied.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the overcoat lacquer is heat stable.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the overcoat lacquer is comprised of an ethylene acrylate copolymer dispersion with an average molecular weight of approximately 22,000 to 150,000 or a mixture of this dispersion with a polyester, polyvinyl acetate, polyacrylate or polyamide in a mixing ratio of 9:1 to 1:1 with respect to the ethylene acrylate copolymer.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the overcoat lacquer comprises 0.5% - 10% of a curing agent.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the curing agent is applied after the overcoat lacquer has been applied.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the curing agent is a polyfunctional aziridine or a melamine resin.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the overcoat lacquer, and optionally the curing agent, is applied in register and gage-pin precision with respect to the previously applied imprint.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 12,~~
characterized in that claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesion promoter is pigmented.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) Sheet material as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1,
wherein, following the heat-seal process or the packaging process, the sheet material is
imprintable.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ Method of using the sheet material as claimed in ~~one~~
~~of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, optionally after it is cut to size and/or stamped, as container covering
for food and nutritional items, pharmaceutical and/or cosmetic products, cleaning agents,
chemicals and the like.